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Doctor MORSE's

THANKSGIVING SERMON,

FEBRUARY 19, 1795.

The preſent Situation of other Nations of the World, contraſted with our own.

A

SERMON,

DELIVERED

AT CHARLESTOWN,

IN THE

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

FEBRUARY 19, 1795;

7551.117

BEING THE DAY RECOMMENDED BY

GEORGE WASHINGTON,

Preſident of the United States of America,

FOR PUBLICK THANKSGIVING

AND

PRAYER.

BY JEDIDIAH MORSE, *D. D.*

MINISTER of the CONGREGATION in CHARLESTOWN.

HE HATH NOT DEALT SO WITH ANY NATION:
PRAISE YE THE LORD.

THE PSALMIST.

Printed by SAMUEL HALL, No. 53, Cornhill, BOSTON,
1795.

Law
Mar. 9, 1899
J

TO

The Congregation in Charleſtown,

At whoſe Requeſt it is made publick,

THE FOLLOWING DISCOURSE,

(Enlarged and illuſtrated with NOTES.)

IS RESPECTFULLY ADDRESSED

BY THEIR AFFECTIONATE

PASTOR.

Charleſtown, February 26, 1795.

DEUTERONOMY IV. 6, 8, 9.

Ver. 8. WHAT NATION IS THERE SO GREAT, THAT HATH STATUTES AND JUDGMENTS SO RIGHTEOUS AS ALL THIS LAW WHICH I SET BEFORE YOU THIS DAY.

Ver. 6. KEEP THEREFORE AND DO THEM, FOR THIS IS YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR UNDERSTANDING IN THE SIGHT OF THE NATIONS, WHICH SHALL HEAR ALL THESE STATUTES, AND SAY, SURELY THIS GREAT NATION IS A WISE AND UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE.

Ver. 9. ONLY TAKE HEED TO THYSELF, AND KEEP THY SOUL DILIGENTLY, LEST THOU FORGET THE THINGS WHICH THINE EYES HAVE SEEN, AND LEST THEY DEPART FROM THY HEART ALL THE DAYS OF THY LIFE; BUT TEACH THEM TO THY SONS, AND THY SONS' SONS.

MY BRETHREN,

THERE cannot be a more pleaſing ſight here on earth, than a Chriſtian aſſembly, impreſſed with a lively ſenſe of the divine goodneſs and bounty, and expreſſing in their countenances their heart-felt joy, voluntarily convened, as we are this day, at the voice of our Chief Magiſtrate, to unite with our fellow-citizens, in rendering praiſe to Almighty GOD, for his manifold mercies. The pleaſure excited, on ſuch an occaſion, is heightened by the conſideration, that millions of people are, at the ſame time, uniting in this delightful ſervice. How much greater ſtill, would be this pleaſure, if there were good reaſons to hope, that all theſe millions were of the

the number of the true worſhippers of God, and felt towards him true gratitude, or "Chriſtian thankfulneſs," for his mercies? Then our country would this day reſemble the heavenly world; and there would be an addition, ſmall, yet acceptable, to the incenſe of praiſe which is daily offered by the celeſtial choir to their heavenly Father.——May this gracious Being, by his good Spirit, ſanctify and prepare our hearts, and the hearts of all his people aſſembled this day, for this pleaſing employment, that ſo we may celebrate a rational and acceptable Thanksgiving to our God.

With a view to lead your minds to a ſurvey of the various diſtinguiſhing bleſſings of divine Providence towards us as a nation, and to excite correſpondent ſentiments of gratitude, I have choſen, as the foundation of the preſent diſcourſe, a part of the addreſs of Moſes to the children of Iſrael, which we have juſt recited.

The book of Deuteronomy contains a repetition of the principal events which happened to the children of Iſrael, and of the laws which God had given them, during their memorable forty years journey from Egypt to Canaan. The generation who heard theſe laws originally delivered, and were eye-witneſſes of theſe wonderful things, having been cut off for their rebellion, it pleaſed God that Moſes, for their inſtruction and warning, ſhould recite them to the new generation before his death. This intereſting rehearſal was made on the plains of Moab, by this eminent ſervant of God, "in the fortieth year, and the eleventh month"* of their pilgrimage. It was the buſineſs of the laſt month of his life, when he was an hundred and twenty years old; and is a ſtanding proof of the truth of what his hiſtorian relates of him, that "his natural force was not abated."†

To

* Deut. i. 3. † Deut. xxxiv. 7.

To have beheld and heard this venerable leader, and Father of his people, rehearſing to them the various wonders which God had wrought in their behalf—teaching them with the dignity and affection of a parent, the ſtatutes and judgments which God had given them by him—calling upon them to review the ſituation of other nations, in contraſt with their own; and thus impreſſing them with a deep ſenſe of the great and diſtinguiſhing bleſſings which they enjoyed, and of their conſequent obligations to obedience—exhibiting before them the advantages that would accrue from a faithful regard to theſe excellent ſtatutes and judgments, in point of national honour, dignity and happineſs—warning them, with ſolemnity and earneſtneſs, of the fatal conſequences of diſobedience, vain-glory and ingratitude—and, finally, after pathetically exhorting them to obey and praiſe God for his wondrous goodneſs, cloſing the intereſting ſcene with his paternal bleſſing—To have witneſſed ſuch a ſcene, muſt have been no leſs affecting than improving.

A ſcene, in ſeveral reſpects reſembling this, we, my brethren, are invited, this day, to contemplate—One at leaſt equally calculated to affect, to improve and animate our hearts. A nation, far greater than that which Moſes addreſſed, is aſſembled this day before the Lord, by the recommendation of their venerable* political Leader and Father—who, in reſpect to his talents as a general in war, and a chief Magiſtrate in civil affairs—his ſucceſs in exerciſing theſe talents—his prudence, ſagacity, and paternal care, vigilance and ſolicitude for the ſafety, peace and happineſs of the people, and his poſſeſſing their entire confidence and eſteem, may with ſingular propriety be compared to Moſes.

This incomparable CHIEF—this MOSES of our nation, in his

* Preſident WASHINGTON entered his 64th year, Feb. 22, 1795—being born Feb. 11, (O. S.) 1732.

his admired Proclamation, invites his numerous and happy fellow-citizens, to learn, from "a review of the calamities which afflict so many other nations," how to appreciate their own happy condition." He rehearses to us the remarkable interpositions of Providence, in rescuing us from various dangers which threatned us, and enumerates the singular blessings "which peculiarly mark our situation with indications of the divine beneficence towards us."

Behold the *good man*, deeply penetrated himself with the duty, "in such a state of things, of acknowledging, with devout reverence, and affectionate gratitude, our many and great obligations to ALMIGHTY GOD, and of imploring of him the continuance and confirmation of these blessings"—Behold him, in virtue of the authority annexed to his high office, "recommending" to the people at large, unitedly, on this day, to "render their sincere and hearty thanks to the great RULER of Nations, for the manifold and signal mercies which distinguish our lot as a nation," and pointing our attention singularly to these "signal mercies."—Behold him, as the Father of his people, *dispensing*, in the most delicate and impressive manner, his wise and salutary instructions and admonitions—*teaching* us that "God is the kind Author of all our blessings"—that to him alone we must look for their continuance—that to him, we should feel under the most solemn obligations for these blessings, the immense value of which we should rightly estimate.—*Warning* us to guard against "arrogance in prosperity"—and against "hazarding the advantages we enjoy by delusive pursuits"—*exhorting* us, by a grateful, upright and suitable behaviour, "as citizens and as men," to secure to ourselves "the continuance of his favours"—and by these means to render this country, more and more a safe and propitious asylum for the unfortunate of other countries"—

recommending,

recommending, implicitly, what is the great baſis of a Republican government—of equal rights, and of publick and ſocial happineſs—a careful attention to publick and domeſtick *education*, in order that "true and uſeful learning may be extended," and "habits of ſobriety, order, morality and piety diffuſed and eſtabliſhed."——Behold him, finally, cloſing the important ſummary, by calling on us to unite in the benevolent petition, that God would graciouſly "impart all the bleſſings we poſſeſs, or aſk for ourſelves, to the whole family of mankind!"——What an auguſt ſcene, my brethren, is here preſented for our contemplation!—How well calculated to excite ſupreme and fervent love and gratitude to the Father of Mercies—and lively emotions of ſincere, *ſubordinate* affection and reſpect, for *Him* at whoſe call we are here aſſembled, and who has been honoured as the inſtrument of ſo much good to mankind!—In great truth may we adopt and apply the language of Moſes and David—"Happy are ye," oh ye citizens of united America—"Who is like unto thee, oh, people ſaved by the Lord, who is the ſhield of your help, and the ſword of your excellency."*—"He hath not dealt ſo with any nation—Praiſe ye the Lord."†

Indeed, when I think on the grandeur and importance of the ſubjects to which our attention is ſolemnly invited this day, I feel deeply impreſſed with a ſenſe of my own inſufficiency to do them juſtice, and am ready to ſhrink from the taſk. In humble dependence, however, on that ALMIGHTY FATHER, whoſe goodneſs we celebrate, and who, through the bleſſed REDEEMER of men, is ever moſt ready to "give his HOLY SPIRIT to them that aſk him"—I ſhall attempt to give, in conformity to the ſpirit and meaning of the text, and in compliance with the Proclamation—

* Deut. xxxiii. 29. † Pſalm cxlvii. 20.

A SUMMARY VIEW OF THE PRESENT SITUATION OF OTHER NATIONS OF THE WORLD, IN CONTRAST WITH OUR OWN.

In the profecution of this plan it will naturally fall in my way to take notice of the fpecial bleffings enumerated in the Proclamation.—The difcourfe will be clofed with fome practical inferences and obfervations.—The plan propofed, you muft be fenfible, can be executed only in a concife and comprehenfive manner, in a fingle difcourfe.

In comparing our fituation, in a national view, with that of others, it is hard for us to diveft our minds of partialities and prejudices—and to place ourfelves in their circumftances—which ought as far as poffible to be done, in order to avoid the charge of partiality and unfairnefs. In many cafes, which occur in a minute compariſon between nations, it is difficult to determine on which fide the balance of advantage lies. There are, however, certain *prominent features* in the exifting ftate of the nations of the earth, and in their political, religious, moral, literary and focial character, which ftrongly mark their difference, and from a compariſon of which, we may, without arrogance, or preſumption, decide to whofe lot moſt probably falls the greateſt fhare of happineſs. *Theſe* only will be the fubjects of compariſon.

To proceed with fome degree of method, we will, in the *firſt* place, take a fummary review of the exifting ftate of feveral other nations, and briefly of the World in general:—and, *fecondly*, attempt a defcription of our own. The refult, we anticipate, will be fuch as to "afford us much matter of conſolation, ſatisfaction," and gratitude to God, and for the exercife of tender fympathy and benevolence towards the afflicted and oppreſſed of other nations of the world.

We begin with the Republick of FRANCE. This migh-

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ty nation has burſt the chains of civil and eccleſiaſtical tyranny. They have ariſen from the darkneſs of ſlavery to the light of freedom. With a boldneſs and energy which aſtoniſhes and intereſts the world, they have eſpouſed the cauſe of LIBERTY, which is the birth-right of mankind. With wonderful ſpeed and ſucceſs, they have vanquiſhed, on every ſide, the numerous hoſts of enemies, which roſe up againſt them.—Lately, a dangerous combination of ſanguinary men* has been checked, if not wholly ſuppreſſed, which has happily paved the way for the adoption of moderate and rational meaſures; from the prevalence of which, there is a pleaſing hope, (we pray it may not prove deluſive) that there will be a ſpeedy termination of the ſpirit of *Vandaliſm*†—of internal rebellions

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* The *Jacobins* are here alluded to. That they deſerve to be called *ſanguinary men*, will appear from the following extracts:—"A deputation from the ſection of the Champs Elyſees, preſented an Addreſs, on the 23d of November, felicitating the Convention on the decree againſt the remnant of the Dictator's (Robeſpierre's) faction, ſitting at the Jacobins, and againſt thoſe individuals, who, like the old privileged Orders, retained only the *name* of their predeceſſors, without one of their virtues—and exhorting the Repreſentatives of the people to *cruſh thoſe venomous reptiles, who were ſwollen into notice only by the innocent blood with which they had gorged themſelves.*"

To this addreſs, GLAUZEL, the Preſident, replied, "The National Convention has declared unextinguiſhable war againſt all the factions, all the intriguers, all the *advocates of terror*, all the depredators of the publick fortune, and all the enemies of the people, *whatever maſk they may aſſume.* The reign of virtue and juſtice is arrived: it is on theſe baſes that the national repreſentation will found the Republick, which is to render the French happy. While Capet exiſted, the Jacobins ſaved the publick weal by their energy; *their hall was then the reſidence of virtue*; they haſtened the deſtruction of the tyrant. But in overturning the throne, the Convention had ſworn to annihilate tyranny. Since the 27th of July, the ſociety of the Jacobins had attempted to rival the national repreſentation; it had become *the reſort of the factious—of the agitators*—it was therefore the duty of the repreſentatives of a free people, true to their oath, to ſhut up a place *polluted by guilt.*" The Herald, Vol. I. No. 73.

In anſwer to a ſimilar addreſs, from the Popular Society of *Chartres*, congratulating the Convention on the decree for ſhutting up the Jacobin Club—the Preſident ſaid—"The majeſty of the people, like a wave which drowns *vile reptiles*, has diſperſed its enemies. The Convention knows how to repreſs all thoſe who take the names of *lions, leopards*, and *tygers*. They will have only men." Centinel, Vol. XXII. No. 45.

† See GREGOIRE's celebrated Report on the deſtruction wrought by *Vandaliſm*, and on the means of repreſſing it—made Auguſt 31, 1794, in the Convention of France. The *Vandals* (whence the expreſſive term *Vandaliſm*) were one of thoſe barbarous na-

ions*—of pernicious and deſtructive jealouſies—of barbarous and ſhocking executions of the innocent.†

Notwithſtanding theſe favourable and pleaſing circumſtances, and the proſpect of an advantageous peace with ſome of the combined powers, the exiſting ſtate of things, in this great Republick, is very unpleaſant. Their enemies, though defeated, are not conquered; they ſtill exiſt, and are formidable. Jealouſies and party-ſpirit, though much

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tions, inhabiting the inhoſpitable regions of the North, who, like a torrent, overwhelmed the Roman empire, making havock of books, elegant temples, ſtatues, pictures, and all the rich and ſuperb monuments of learning and the arts. It appears from the report referred to above, that the ſame deſtructive, barbarous ſcene was acted over again in France, during the tyranny of *Robeſpierre*. "Do not think it exaggeration," ſays GREGOIRE, "when you are told, that *the names only of the articles purloined, deſtroyed, or waſted, would form many volumes.*"—To ſuch lengths did they proceed in their havock of literature and the arts, as to propoſe that "all who cheriſh the arts ſhould be deſtroyed"—that "all rare animals ſhould be killed, that the citizens might not ſpend their time at the muſeum, in viewing natural hiſtory"—that "the national library ſhould be burnt"—that the words, "men of ſcience" and "ariſtocrats," ſhould be conſidered "as ſynonymous." Dumas ſaid "it was neceſſary to guillotine all men of genius and wit."—And this cry was attempted to be raiſed in the ſections, "guard againſt that man, for he has made a book."

* A decree of amneſty paſſed the National Convention, Dec. 2, 1794, declaring that "All perſons in the precinct of the armies of the Weſt, and of the Northern coaſt, now under the denomination of *Rebels of la Vendee and Chouans*, who ſhall lay down their arms, within the next month from the publication of this decree, ſhall not afterwards be proſecuted, *on account of their revolt.*"

Gen. DUTERRE announced, as effects of the above decree, "that the ſyſtem of juſtice and humanity, adopted in *La Vendee*, promiſed a ſpeedy end to the war in that quarter, and that the rebels were daily ſurrendering, ſaying, *Since you have pulled down the ſcaffolds, we abjure fighting againſt our brothers.*

"*La Vendee*," ſays DUBOIS CRANCE, "now produces 500,000 oxen and mules *leſs* than before the Revolution; and a *million* acres of land, formerly cultivated, now lies waſte." Such have been the deſtructive effects of their rebellion.

† The following extracts are here introduced in juſtification of the phraſe—*barbarous and ſhocking executions of the innocent*—and to ſhew the great impropriety and abſurdity of approving and juſtifying, in univerſal and undiſtinguiſhing terms, the conduct of part of the French nation—conduct, at the recital of which (to uſe their own emphatical language) "Nature ſhudders—reaſon is confounded—and liberty covers herſelf with the mantle of mourning."

In the "Bill of accuſation, drawn up againſt fourteen members of the revolutionary committee of Nantes, confined at Paris, and exhibited to them by the Publick Accuſer, LEBOIS, Oct. 19"—it is declared, that

"Whatever is moſt barbarous in cruelty—whatever is moſt perfidious in guilt—whatever is moſt dreadful in extortion—and whatever is moſt ſhocking in depravity, compoſe

much abated, yet disturb the harmony of the nation, and require to be watched with a vigilant eye. Their government

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the accusation of the members and commissioners of the revolutionary committee of Nantes.

"In the most remote records of the world, in all the pages of history, even of the barbarous ages, scarcely would be found, any traits which come near to the horrors committed by the accused. Nero was less sanguinary, Phalaris less barbarous, and Syphanes less cruel!"

To verify his charge, he states, among other things—that "On the 15th Frimaire, 132 new victims were devoted to death. Order was given to *shoot* them; and it was *Goulain*, *Grandmaison* and *Mainguet*, who signed this order, which still exists in its original form.

"On the night between the 24th and 25th Frimaire, 129 prisoners, taken at hazard, and torn from the prisons, bound, pinioned, dragged to the harbour, embarked in a boat, and plunged into the river. *Goulain* held the fatal list, *Joly* bound the unhappy victims, and *Grandmaison* threw them headlong into the Loire. The project was decreed in the Committee, and the orders given by the members. *Mainguet* allows that he signed them; —*Grandmaison* acknowledges that he caused the victims to be thrown into the river; and *Goulain* presided at this dreadful execution, which confounded at once the guilty and the innocent, which destroyed all the sacred rights of nature, violated those of liberty, and darkened the fairest days of her reign with a cloud of blood.

"Never will the hand of time efface the impression of the enormities committed by these atrocious men. The Loire will always flow with blood-stained waters, and the foreign mariner will not arrive without trembling on the coasts covered with the carcases of victims sacrificed by barbarity, and which the indignant waves will have disgorged on those shores."

"Drunk with blood and wine, these canibals scarcely knew their victims, and their eyes refused to read the traces of their crimes.

"In order to accomplish these crimes, it was necessary to associate with themselves persons of the most *depraved principles:* They form a revolutionary company: They choose accomplices of the *most atrocious character*; and *Goulain* was not ashamed to ask—*If villains still more depraved were to be found?*" The Herald, Vol. I. No. 77.

Extracts from the Trial of CARRIER.

"PETIT, substitute of the Publick Accuser, read a list of 42 persons drowned in *Bourg Neuf*, of whom one was an old man of 79 years, twelve women, twelve girls, and fifteen children, five of whom were at the breast, and others from five to six years old—by *Carrier*'s orders.

"MERGAULT declared, that two volunteers, who lodged at his house at Nantes, used to go out with their arms, and every day shoot *a hundred* of the insurgent prisoners, who were confined in a large enclosure. The volunteers told him, that it was by *Carrier*'s orders.

"The Chief Judge asked *Carrier*, if he recollected the child of 13 years old, whom he condemned, and who said to the executioner, "*You will hurt me very much.*"—The guillotine cut his head in the middle. Or if he recollected the death of the *publick Executioner* at *Nantes*, who died with *horror*, after having executed *(without trial) the five sisters* by the name of *Metairie*, the eldest 28, the youngest 17 years old—together with their maid, of 22." Centinel.

We are happy to add, that justice has triumphed over these monsters—that the *reign of terror* has ceased in a great measure—that a spirit of humanity and moderation is prevailing, and "the national character" of the French, "is re-appearing."

ernment is unsettled, and revolutionary. When the external pressure, which now binds them together, shall be taken off by a general peace, and the numerous armies of the republick* shall return into its bosom, if we may judge from our own revolution, the nation will divide into parties, from local interests and prejudices; and it will probably take years to form and establish a government which shall unite all interests, and meet the views of all parties; though, I firmly believe, that they will finally overcome all intervening obstacles, and obtain such a government. The Christian Religion, and its sacred institutions, are spurned at, and rejected.† Scarcity threatens them. Their manufactures are in ruins.‡ An enormously expensive war is loading the nation with a debt, which, added to their former one,§ must, hereafter, in all probability, injuriously affect, in various ways, the liberties

* Reported to amount to 1,200,000 men.

† The rejection of the Christian Religion in France is less to be wondered at, when we consider, in how unamiable and disgusting a point of view it has been there exhibited, under the hierarchy of Rome. When peace and a free government shall be established, and the people have liberty and leisure to examine for themselves, we anticipate, by means of the effusions of the Holy Spirit, a glorious revival and prevalence of pure, unadulterated Christianity.—May the happy time speedily come!

‡ The following facts, illustrative of this assertion, were lately stated to the Convention by DUBOIS CRANCE.—"Silk stuffs, to the value of two hundred millions of livres, were formerly manufactured at Lyons from the raw material of the value of twelve millions. This manufacture of silk was totally ruined by the severe decrees against Lyons, under the Jacobin administration. Great part of the wealthy merchants and manufacturers, were proscribed or guillotined, and their property seized. The number of victims sacrificed in that city alone, was upwards 4500. The silk weavers were driven from their occupations, and compelled to collect their sustenance from the ruins of the houses of the rich, a great part of which were destroyed, by order of the Club government. Ten thousand of the workmen in the fine cloth manufactures of Sedan, are nearly destitute of employment." It is with satisfaction we add—that since the fall of the Jacobin faction, three thousand merchants, manufacturers and artizans, have returned to France, through Switzerland, and resumed their labours."‖—Should *moderation* continue to prevail, others, no doubt, will follow, and the state of manufactures will assume a more pleasing aspect.

‖ The Herald, Vol. I. No. 68.

§ The state of the nation, in respect to their finances, may be judged of by the following:—The expenditure, according to Mr. Necker, *exceeded* the revenue, in 1789, 56,239,000 livres, equal to £.2,343,291 sterling.

ties, the morals, and happineſs of the people. Beſides, the miſchief which a ſtate of war ever operates in regard to religion, learning, and arts,* morals and domeſtick happineſs is incalculably great. How calamitous then muſt be the preſent condition of the French nation in theſe reſpects?—I forbear any details on theſe points. A recurrence to our own ſituation, at the height of our revolution war, allowing for the difference of numbers, and the difference of religious and political ſtate between the two nations, will give us a faint idea of the preſent ſtate of our allies. While we felicitate ourſelves in a freedom from the various calamities which afflict this magnanimous nation, we cannot but feel deeply intereſted in their happineſs, and wiſh for their ſucceſs, in all *virtuous meaſures*, to advance a cauſe dear to mankind, and in defence of which we formerly experienced their generous aid.†

Here let us pauſe a moment, to pay a juſt tribute of gratitude

* See Note on *Vandaliſm*, p. 11.

† The following are the Author's ſentiments reſpecting the French Revolution, expreſſed in a ſermon delivered on the day of Publick Thankſgiving, Nov. 20, 1794, and here inſerted by deſire.

"Liberty is the birth-right of all mankind; but few of them, comparatively, enjoy it. It has been wreſted from them by the various artifices of wicked and deſigning men, and kept concealed from their view. They have been held in various kinds and degrees of ſlavery, and knew not that they had a right to be free. But the ſcales of ignorance are faſt dropping from their eyes. Whole nations have riſen, determined to maintain their rights. Where that genuine liberty, which is the right of every man, has been their object, and the meaſures purſued to attain it have been commendable, and ſuch as heaven approves, as lovers of mankind, we cannot but rejoice moſt ſincerely, in their ſucceſs. This is the bound which I conceive ought to limit our joy and gratitude to Heaven, on account of thoſe nations who are contending for their rights. Their cauſe is unqueſtionably good; their errors and irregularities, however, proceeding almoſt neceſſarily from the magnitude and the difficulties of their undertaking, are not to be juſtified, nor yet too ſeverely cenſured. All circumſtances taken into view, they ought, perhaps, in a great meaſure, to be excuſed. But for their cruelties, and eſpecially for their impieties, we can find no adequate excuſe. It would diſcredit the beſt of cauſes, with every good man, to blend ſuch cruelties and impieties with it, and to make them acceſſary to, and auxiliaries in, its promotion. While then we offer up our thanks to God, this day, for the progreſs of *real liberty*, in oppoſition to tyranny and oppreſſion, in whatever quarter of the world this *progreſs* has been made, let us carefully ſeparate between the precious and the vile, and not rejoice for that which ought to fill our hearts with ſorrow and mourning."

gratitude and ſympathy to that generous, but unfortunate Patriot, whoſe diſintereſted zeal and ſervices* in the cauſe of LIBERTY, both in America and France, have embalmed his memory in the heart of every grateful American.—Yes, LA FAYETTE, could our ardent prayers have reſcued thee from thy priſon and thy chains, and have wafted thee to this country of freedom and happineſs, long ſince wouldſt thou have been welcomed to her friendly boſom. We devoutly implore the God of compaſſion to mitigate and to ſhorten the period of thy ſufferings; and to "cauſe thee yet to ſee good days, according to the days in which thou haſt ſeen evil!" May you live to enjoy, in your own country, the fair harveſt of that liberty, the ſeeds of which were planted, and for a ſeaſon cheriſhed, by your own hand!

We next turn our attention to GREAT-BRITAIN. The following picture of the preſent ſtate of this kingdom is drawn to our hand. "If ever a period called for the exertions of a people in their own defence, the preſent is the one. The criſis is awful and unprecedented. Our ſituation is new, and to new meaſures muſt we have recourſe. Antiquity

* The Marquis LA FAYETTE, at the age of 19, eſpouſed, with ardour, the cauſe of America; and at a very early period of the war, determined to embark for the United States. Before he could effect his departure, intelligence arrived, that the American rebels, reduced to 2000 men, were flying through the Jerſeys, before a Britiſh force of 30,000 regulars. This news ſo effectually extinguiſhed the little credit which America had in Europe, in the beginning of the year 1777, that the Commiſſioners of Congreſs at Paris, though they had previouſly encouraged this project of Fayette, could not procure a veſſel to forward his intentions. Under theſe circumſtances, they thought it but honeſt to diſſuade him from the preſent proſecution of his perilous enterprize. It was in vain they acted ſo candid a part. The flame which America had kindled in his breaſt, could not be extinguiſhed by her misfortunes. "Hitherto," ſaid he, "I have only cheriſhed your cauſe—now I am going to ſerve it. The lower it is in the opinion of the people, the greater will be the effect of my departure; and ſince you cannot procure a veſſel, I ſhall purchaſe and fit out one to carry your diſpatches to Congreſs, and myſelf to America." He accordingly embarked, and arrived at Charleſton, early in the year 1777. Congreſs ſoon conferred on him the rank of Major-General. He accepted the appointment, not however without exacting two conditions, which diſplayed a noble and generous ſpirit—the one, that he ſhould ſerve at his own expenſe—the other, that he ſhould begin his ſervices as a volunteer. See Amer. Geog. 2d edit. p. 136.

Antiquity leaves us without like or rule, whereby to guide our conduct. To ourſelves, and on ourſelves only, muſt we look, and depend. At this alarming, eventful moment, when a political ſyſtem, *bold and faſcinating in principle, deſtructive of all exiſting governments*, is adopted and ſupported by thirty millions of people, eſtabliſhed by will and force, in the moſt fertile regions of the earth, and is daily gaining, throughout Europe, myriads of votaries, what meaſures are left for us to follow? How are we to act? And what are we to do?—Plans are adopted without prudence, and executed without reſolution and ſucceſs. The millions ſlain in the fields of Belgium—the populous cities of Great-Britain and Ireland, thinned of their inhabitants—the loom ſtill and neglected—the induſtrious youth of the provinces dragged from the plough, and ſhipped off by hundreds, to oppoſe, in a ſtrange and hoſtile country, the enthuſiaſtick movements of an armed nation—their bleeding wounds—their agonizing cries, argue forcibly againſt the meaſures of the preſent adminiſtration.

"The fall of a kingdom, like that of the mountain-flood, comes when we leaſt expect it. Britons! beware—behold the dangers which ſurround you, and tremble for the conſequences. Involved in a ruinous war—your armies flying before a victorious enemy—unaſſiſted and betrayed by thoſe who call themſelves your allies—the publick money prodigally laviſhed on Sardinian mercenaries in Britiſh pay—the ſatellites of Pruſſia, ſupported by your revenues, in the proſecution of a war* whoſe object is the deſtruction of millions—the ſlavery of a Nation—The blood of Kosciusko, cries againſt us. Add to this, a ruined commerce at home—our manufactures annihilated—Gazettes ſwelled with bankruptcies—a total loſs of credit

* Againſt Poland.

—a want of confidence in every department of State; and, finally, an unprincipled miniſtry, who drive the nation down the ſtrong tide of power, the floating wreck of their own avarice and ambition. Such, Britons! is the picture of your preſent ſtate." He adds,

"Our ſtate to-day, is more deſperate than it was yeſterday. The arrival of each mail announces the loſs of battles—the capture of towns. Behold Holland a prey to the victorious enemy! Her military ſtores, her bank—her navy, are the prize of conqueſt. Mæſtricht has capitulated—Nimeguen receives their troops—Where is our army? What corner is to receive them?——Even now the enemy diſpute with us the empire of the ſeas. Should the navy of Holland be thrown into the hoſtile ſcale, what would be the conſequence?—I walk over deceitful embers—The ſubject will not bear diſcuſſion."*

The colouring of this melancholy picture is high; but do not accounts from this quarter, confirm the truth of a great part of the facts here ſtated?—We may add, as further indicative of the diſtreſs of this nation—their perſecutions for political opinions, to which MUIR, PALMER, MARGAROT, and others, have fallen victims—the pernicious and diſtreſſing effects of the Teſt Act, which has driven thouſands of valuable citizens from the kingdom—and their oppreſſive *taxes*, which are rendered neceſſary, in conſequence of an enormous and increaſing debt, and an unpopular, deſtructive, and iniquitous war; and doubly diſcouraging, becauſe there is no hope of their decreaſe

* The Herald, Vol. I. No. 71.

This ſketch of the preſent ſtate of Great-Britain, was written and publiſhed in England, as late as Nov. 14, 1794, by a writer under the ſignature of *Junius Rediviuus*. He appears to be no friend to the "political ſyſtem" of the French—and advocates vigorous meaſures to oppoſe the progreſs of what, in his view, are *diſorganizing principles*. We conclude from theſe and other circumſtances, that he was a friend to his country, and would not knowingly exaggerate its calamitous ſtate.

creaſe or termination.* Far be it from us to exult in thus depicting the misfortunes and diſtreſs of this nation, hoſtile as their government *has been* to our intereſts and happineſs. While we are thankful to God, for our own proſperous and happy ſtate, we ſincerely deplore the miſeries in which they are involved—and deprecate the greater ones, which apparently threaten them. While as *Republicans* we firmly aſſert and maintain our *rights*; as *Chriſtians* let us forgive the *wrongs* we have unjuſtly ſuffered.

From

* I take leave here to introduce a comparative view of the National Debts of Great-Britain and the United States, which, with the obſervations annexed, will ſhew the preſent eligible ſituation of the *latter*, compared with that of the *former*, and with that of Europe at large.

DEBT OF GREAT-BRITAIN.			Dols.	Cts.
Principal of the Engliſh Debt, in 1785,	£. 239,154,880,	ſterl. or	1062,910.577.	80
Intereſt and charges for management,	9,275,769,	or	41,225,640.	—

Chalmer's Eſtimate of the Comparative Strength of Great-Britain, p. 159.

Since 1785, the National Debt of Great-Britain is ſaid to have increaſed to upwards of THREE HUNDRED MILLIONS ſterling—the intereſt of which, together with the civil liſt, ſecret ſervice money, &c. &c. require a yearly revenue of upwards of *ſeventeen* MILLIONS. See Rev. Mr. Channing's Thankſgiving Sermon, of Nov. 27, 1794, p. 17.

DEBT OF THE UNITED STATES.	Dols.	Cts.
Principal of *Domeſtick* Debt at the cloſe of 1794, conſiſting of unfunded—ſix per cent.—three per cent. and deferred ſtock,	64,825,538.	70
Total intereſt, payable annually by the contract exiſting at the cloſe of the year 1794,	2,405,272.	60
Total *Foreign* Debt, due to the French Government, and at Amſterdam and Antwerp, about	14,708,000.	—
Intereſt on foreign loans, as due 31ſt Dec. 1794,	678,102.	80
Total Debt, principal and intereſt,	72,616,914.	10

Secretary Hamilton's Report, of Jan. 7, 1795.

If we reckon the Debt of Great-Britain as it ſtood in 1785, the difference between that, and ours, is upwards of *One thouſand and thirty-one millions* of dollars. The actual difference, at the preſent time, is probably *a third* more. There is this further ſtriking difference, *theirs* is rapidly *increaſing—ours* is *decreaſing*.

In the United States, the average proportion of his earnings which each citizen pays for the ſupport of the civil, military, and naval eſtabliſhments, and for the diſcharge of the intereſt of the publick debts of his country, is about one dollar and a quarter, equal to two days' labour, nearly: that is, five millions of dollars to four millions of people. In Great-Britain, France, Holland, Spain, Portugal, Germany, &c. the taxes for theſe objects,

From Great-Britain, let us turn our attention to SPAIN. View her armies flying before a victorious enemy, and leaving their thouſands ſlain and wounded, with immenſe ſpoils behind them. In addition to the horrors and calamities of a fierce, bloody and unſucceſsful war, which I leave to your own imaginations to paint, contemplate the political—the religious—the moral, and the literary ſtate of this kingdom. And when you are informed that the government is *deſpotick*—the monarch *abſolute*, and the religion *papal*, you will eaſily infer what is their ſituation in reſpect to politicks and religion, literature and morals.

From Spain, proceed to the *Seventeen Provinces*, called the NETHERLANDS.* What language can deſcribe the ſcenes of carnage, ruin and diſtreſs which have been exhibited for ſeveral years paſt, in this fertile and populous part of the world? Theſe unfortunate Provinces have been the ſeat of the preſent war; in the courſe of which, ſome

objects, on an average, amount to about ſix dollars and a quarter to each perſon. Hence it appears, that in the United States, we enjoy the bleſſings of free government and mild laws; of perſonal liberty and protection of property, for one fifth part of the ſum, for each individual, which is paid in Europe for the purchaſe of publick benefits of the ſame nature, and too generally without attaining their objects; for *leſs* than one fifth indeed, as in European countries, in general, ten days' labour do not amount to ſix dollars and a quarter. In this eſtimate, proper allowances are made for publick debts.

From the beſt data that can be collected, the taxes in the United States, for county, town, and pariſh purpoſes, for the ſupport of ſchools, the poor, roads, &c. appear to be conſiderably leſs than in thoſe countries; and perhaps the objects of them, except in roads, is attained in a more perfect degree. Great preciſion is not to be expected in theſe calculations; but we have ſufficient documents to prove that we are not far from the truth. The proportion in the United States is well aſcertained; and with equal accuracy in France, by Mr. Necker; and in England, Holland, Spain, and other nations in Europe, by him, Zimmermann, and other writers on the ſubject.

This ſtatement, at the ſame time that it evinces the eligible and proſperous ſituation of the United States, ſhews how large a proportion of their earnings, the people in general can apply to their private purpoſes. See American Univerſal Geography, p. 250.

* The *Netherlands* are divided into two parts—diſtinguiſhed by *Northern* and *Southern* diviſions. The *Northern* contains the Seven United Provinces, uſually known by the name of *Holland*,—2,758,632 inhabitants in 1785. The *Southern* contains the Auſtrian and French Netherlands,—1,500,000 inhabitants.

ſome of them have repeatedly changed maſters. Their plains have been enriched with millions of human corpſes, unhappy victims in the cauſe either of *liberty* or *deſpotiſm*, who have periſhed by the ſword, peſtilence, fatigue, terror and famine. And what is their preſent ſituation? Some of them are annexed to the French Republick, and are repreſented in the National Convention. Their ſtate, however, which muſt be conſidered as *revolutionary*, is far from being tranquil or ſecure. The next campaign *may* recover them, voluntarily or involuntarily, to their former condition, and they may again become a circle of the German Empire. HOLLAND, which includes the greater part of the other Provinces, lies at the mercy of a victorious army, lodged in the heart of their country, and dictating their own terms of peace or ſubmiſſion.

Would you behold a country in ſtill deeper diſtreſs?—turn your eyes to POLAND. For more than twenty years paſt, this ill-fated nation has been the ſport of her unprincipled neighbours, the Empreſs of Ruſſia, the Emperor of Germany, and the King of Pruſſia. In 1772, theſe formidable powers entered into a moſt wicked alliance to divide and diſmember the kingdom of Poland. This they eaſily effected, in direct violation of the moſt ſolemn treaties, and in a manner tyrannical and cruel beyond all former precedent. The time will not admit of entering into any details on this moſt affecting ſubject. I cannot help obſerving, however, that the other European powers, beheld theſe iniquitous tranſactions, by which a great kingdom, of FOURTEEN MILLIONS of ſouls, was violently and ſurreptitiouſly deprived of a great part of its territory, and a *third* part of its inhabitants, with an inhuman indifference and unconcern.

The baneful effects of theſe proceedings were ſeverely

felt,

felt, till the memorable and happy Revolution in 1791.* By this revolution, effected without blood ſhed or even tumult among the people, and in its principles highly favourable to their rights and liberties, POLAND had a fair proſpect of enjoying ſome repoſe after her calamities, and of becoming powerful, proſperous and independent. But, alas! ſhort were her triumphs, and deluſive her proſpects. Her ambitious, rapacious and but *too* powerful neighbours, envious at her tranquillity, and jealous of her increaſing ſtrength, under a free and equal government, and of the ſpread of the principles of freedom, have, in the ſame inhuman manner as before,† (in 1772) combined againſt her, and have replunged her ſtill deeper in the abyſs of miſery. Noble, vigorous, and worthy of their good cauſe, have been the ſtruggles of this great nation, under

* Perfected May 3d.

† The Leyden Gazette of March 4th, 1794, ſtates—that "Baron Ingelſtrom, Miniſter Plenipotentiary, and Commander in Chief of the armies of the Empreſs of Ruſſia, has tranſmitted a Note to the permanent Council of Poland, requiring them to collect all the acts and decrees of the Revolutionary Diet of 1791, from all the provinces of Poland, and to put them under ſeal in the cuſtody of the permanent Council." He cloſes this moſt extraordinary requiſition, intended to blot out the annals of their happy Revolution, by ſaying, "He has no doubt the *wiſdom* of his motives will command a ready reception of this order, and an *approbation proportioned to the importance of the object.*"

The ſame Gazette further ſtates, that the Empreſs is endeavouring to rivet her chains, and to put it forever out of the power of wretched Poland to throw off the yoke, by *gradually reducing the Poliſh army*, and by *melting down the cannon which the Revolutionary Diet had procured.* The Herald, Vol. I. No. 4.

On the 16th of April following, Baron Ingelſtrom ſent another Note to the King and permanent Council, "requiring that the arſenal of Warſaw ſhould be delivered up to him—the Poliſh military be diſarmed, and that 20 perſons, moſtly of conſideration, ſhould be arreſted, and if found guilty, puniſhed with death."

The effect of this ſingular Note was a violent and bloody inſurrection at Warſaw—which opened the dreadful ſcene of war, ſince exhibited, and which, after deſtroying ſeveral hundred thouſand people, and entailing poverty and wretchedneſs on as many more, is likely to have a moſt melancholy termination.

The following is an extract from a Treaty of ceſſion, ſigned *(by conſtraint)* in the name of Poland, in favour of Ruſſia, at Grodno, July 13, 1793—Tranſlated from the Leyden Gazette.

The ſecond article determines "the limits which ſhall hereafter forever ſeparate the empire of Ruſſia and the kingdom of Poland." The boundary line deſcribed cuts off a large part of Poland, bordering on Ruſſia, inhabited by *three millions and a half* of people.

under the auſpices of the beſt of kings,* and the immediate command of a brave and admired General,† againſt the moſt brutal tyranny: But the arm of deſpotiſm, after a dubious conteſt, has proved too mighty for them, and reduced them, we have too much reaſon to fear, to unconditional ſubmiſſion. What carnage, what horrors have marked the routes of the victorious *liberticides*, the ſlaves of

ple. "This line above determined," ſays the treaty, "to ſerve forever as a boundary between the empire of Ruſſia and the kingdom of Poland—his Majeſty, the King, &c. cede in a manner the *moſt formal*, the *moſt ſolemn* and the *moſt obligatory*, to her Majeſty, the Empreſs of all the Ruſſias, her heirs and ſucceſſors, all that which ought in conſequence to appertain to the Empire of Ruſſia, and eſpecially all the countries and diſtricts, which the aforeſaid line ſeparates from the actual territory of Poland, with all the *property, ſovereignty* and *independence*; with all the cities, fortreſſes, boroughs, villages, hamlets, rivers and waters, with all the *vaſſals, ſubjects* and *inhabitants*; releaſing them from their homage and oath of fidelity, which they have taken to his Majeſty and the crown of Poland; with *all the rights*, as well *political* and *civil*, as *ſpiritual*, and in general, with all that belongs to the ſovereignty of thoſe countries; and his ſaid Majeſty, the king and the republick of Poland, promiſes in a manner the moſt poſitive and ſolemn, never to form, either directly or indirectly, or under any pretext whatever, any pretenſion to the countries and provinces ceded by the preſent treaty." The Herald, Vol. I. No. 17.

* Stanislaus Augustus, the preſent King of Poland, is a moſt amiable, humane man—and has endeared his name to all lovers of liberty by his exertions for the freedom and happineſs of his ſubjects. His ſpeeches to the Diet, a few days after the forementioned treaty was ſigned, exhibit forcibly the feelings of a diſtreſſed, generous, paternal heart—"My own fate," ſaid he, "intereſts me the leaſt; I have more than once offered to ſacrifice myſelf for my country; but it is your fate that agitates my thoughts, and what is more important the fall of the nation—It is the duty of a Father who loves his children, to lay the plain truth before them, without any diſguiſe—of this duty I have acquitted myſelf."—In a ſecond ſpeech delivered on the ſame day, he ſays—"I have heard, with heart-felt grief, the vows of a virtuous citizen, who, before the laſt ſitting, promiſed himſelf tears of compaſſion from his poſterity, who will ſee upon his tomb, the name of him, who choſe rather to die, than ceaſe to call by the name of *compatriots*, thoſe whom a foreign force has appropriated to itſelf. § I dare hope in my turn, that when I ſhall appear before the great Judge, to whom I appeal for the purity of my motives, thoſe who ſhall live after me, will ſay,—"He was unfortunate, but he was not culpable."

See theſe affecting ſpeeches at large, in the Herald, Vol. I. No. 16.

§ Alluding to the three millions and a half of Poles conſigned over to Ruſſia, by treaty.

† Kosciusko. This General was in America during our Revolution, and is well known to many of our officers. Here, as the pupil of Washington, "he was confirmed in the principles of liberty, endured its toils, and learned to" fight "in its defence." He was placed by his countrymen, at the head of their armies, and he often led them to victory. At length, overpowered by numbers, and covered with wounds, he was taken priſoner, with a part of his army, and, under a ſtrong guard of 3000 men, conducted to Peterſburgh, where our lateſt accounts leave him.

of the tyranneſs of Ruſſia ?* The miſeries of the Poliſh nation, judging from the lateſt accounts from that quarter, are, at this time, great and deplorable beyond deſcription. Unfortunate, afflicted *brethren* in the bonds of freedom, we weep with you !——Thy wounds, KOSCIUSKO, are thy glory—Thy blood will accelerate the growth of "the tree of LIBERTY"—Thy fate intereſts the feelings of *the friends of liberty* through Europe and America—Thy rich *reward* is their eſteem and admiration. May it comfort thee in thy priſon !—

We rejoice that a righteous God reigns, who will one day avenge the cauſe of the innocent and oppreſſed, and will ſo over-rule the dark diſpenſations of his Providence, as to bring great glory to his own name, and happineſs to the whole family of mankind.

The little Republick of GENEVA,† next claims our attention. Only four years ago, this people were as happy and as flouriſhing in their government, commerce, manufactures, religion and morals, as any people on earth.—Now, through a pernicious, diſorganizing foreign influence—an influence which has ſince threatned us with the ſame calamities, they are reduced to the moſt humiliating and afflicting ſtate of anarchy and diſtreſs. "GENEVA," ſays

* Accounts under the London head of Jan. 3d, 1795, ſtate—that the Ruſſian army under Gen. Suwarow, in the courſe of 52 days from the 17th of Sept. fought *ſix battles*, in which were ſlain 28,500 Poles.—How dreadful muſt the carnage appear, when we take into the account the exploits of Ferſen, and the reſt of the Ruſſian Generals—and of the Pruſſian army ? Mercury, No. 16, Vol. V.

In the engagement on the 4th of Nov. (1794) at Praga, on the banks of the Viſtula, 20,000 Poles periſhed by the ſword, the fire and the water. In the ſuburb of Praga, 12,000 inhabitants of both ſexes, and all ages, were the victims of the firſt fury of the Ruſſians, who maſſacred all that they met, without diſtinction of age, ſex or quality. Centinel, Vol. XXII. No. 49.

Another account of the capture of Warſaw, by way of Vienna, ſtates—that "the beſieged conſiſted of 40,000 men, amongſt whom were 7000 Pruſſians ; and the maſſacres committed by the Coſſacks upon men, women and children, are too horrible for deſcription.

† Its inhabitants are eſtimated at 30,000.

ſays the intelligent hiſtorian of this Revolution, "is loſt, without reſource, in reſpect to religion, to morals, to the ſciences—to the fine arts, to trade, to liberty, and above all, to internal peace. Its convulſions have no other term than thoſe of France, to the fate of which, it has had the criminal imprudence irremiſſibly to attach itſelf, and the various ſhocks of which, it muſt more or leſs, inevitably ſuffer."*

The nations we have mentioned, with their dependent colonies in the Weſt-Indies, whoſe wretchedneſs equals that of any country we have deſcribed—embrace that portion of mankind, which, ſo far as we know, are, at the preſent time, involved in the moſt afflicting and deplorable miſery. All the other nations of Europe, are more or leſs affected by the preſent convulſed ſtate of things in this quarter of the world.

The unwieldy Germanick Empire, without power to execute its will†—without finances—involved in a deſtructive and unpopular war—is divided againſt itſelf, and is probably tottering into ruin.

The enſlaved ſubjects of the two moſt inſidious, unfeeling, and (ſhall I ſay amiſs, if I add) monſtrous tyrants perhaps, on earth, I mean the Empreſs of Ruſſia, and the King of Pruſſia—the *ſlaves* of theſe cruel deſpots, who are employed

* See a brief Account of the Origin and Progreſs of the Revolution in Geneva—written in letters, by a Geneveſe gentleman. This well written afflicting narration, is well worth peruſal.

† See the Emperor's edict, iſſued Oct. 28, 1794, to the Directors of the Circles of the Empire, containing an *exhortation*, &c. &c.—The third article of this exhortation is thus expreſſed—

"His Imperial Majeſty *expects* that no ſtate will ſhew, from individual intereſt, or from any other falſe principles, any backwardneſs againſt contributing to the general defence of the Empire. His Majeſty would never have manifeſted any ſuſpicions reſpecting this point, if *unfortunately experience had not ſhewn him*, that from the time the increaſe of the army had been determined to be triple the number of the former eſtabliſhment, that the *meaſure has not yet been accompliſhed to the preſent day*."

employed in butchering their fellow-men by thouſands, cannot, *generally* ſpeaking, be otherwiſe than wretched. Till the period arrives, and I believe it to be faſt approaching, when a ſufficient degree of knowledge of their rights, ſhall be diſſeminated among the *lower orders of people*, as to enable them to effect a revolution, and to break the chains which bind them, it muſt, I think, be conſidered rather as their felicity, than their misfortune, that they are ignorant and inſenſible of the evils which it is their lot to endure.

The neutral nations of Europe, which are few in number, and even when combined, of ſmall weight in the political ſcale, ſubjected, as they are, to conſtant irritations and alarms from their more powerful neighbours, muſt be in a ſtate of painful ſolicitude, leſt they ſhould be drawn into the whirlpool, which diſturbs the peace, and threatens the overthrow of ſo many of the powers around them.

From Europe we paſs into Aſia. Of this immenſe quarter of the Globe, containing, it is *conjectured*, more than half mankind*—our knowledge is very imperfect. Judging, however, from the beſt accounts that have come to our knowledge, their ſtate, in a political, religious, moral and ſocial view, is far from being either enviable or eligible. This vaſt country is divided between the deſpotick Empires of China, Ruſſia, the Great Mogul, Perſia, and Turkey; except what is inhabited by the wild and wandering Arabs and Tartars, who are ſaid to be the only people in Aſia "that enjoy any ſhare of liberty," if what they poſſeſs may be honoured with the name. In regard

* The common eſtimate of human inhabitants on the globe, has been 950 millions—500 millions of which are apportioned to Aſia. This eſtimate, I conceive, to be in a great meaſure conjectural, and very erroneous. There is a miſtake of more than 100 millions in America.

regard to religion, the greater part of the inhabitants are Pagans and Idolaters; the reſt are Mahometans, Jews, and a few Chriſtians. From the nature of their government and religion, we are left to infer their political, moral and ſocial ſtate. "The ſyſtem of *morals*, in this country," ſays a celebrated hiſtorian, ſpeaking of Aſia in general, "is no leſs extraordinary than that of nature. When we fix our eyes on this vaſt continent, where nature hath exerted her utmoſt efforts for the happineſs of man, we cannot but *regret that man hath done all in his power to oppoſe her.* The rage of conqueſt, and what is a no leſs deſtructive evil, the greedineſs of traders, have in their turns, ravaged and oppreſſed the fineſt country on the face of the globe."*

Of the various nations in Aſia, the Chineſe are generally believed to be the beſt governed, the moſt civilized and the happieſt.—Their panegyriſts have ſaid, extravagantly enough, that "the hiſtory of this well-governed Empire, is the hiſtory of mankind; and the reſt of the world reſembles the chaos of matter, before it was wrought into form."† And what is the ſtate of this happieſt of people? —China, beyond doubt, is the moſt populous ſpot on the globe—of courſe, judging from the experience of all ages, the people muſt be the moſt corrupt in their morals; and for the ſame reaſons that our populous towns are more depraved in this reſpect, than the country.—What opinion ſhould we form of the character, laws and manners of that people, among whom we ſhould ſee, "not unfrequently, one province ruſhing upon another, and putting all the inhabitants to death, without mercy, and with impunity?" Whoſe laws neither "reſtrain nor puniſh the expoſure or the murder of new-born infants?"—Whoſe

"*Sovereign*

* Abbe Raynal's Hiſtory of the Indies, Vol. I. p. 50.

† Ibid. Vol. I. p. 151.

"*Sovereign is the cudgel?*"—Among whom "the innocent man is often, by infamous magiſtrates, condemned, whipped and thrown into priſon; and the guilty pardoned upon the payment of a pecuniary fine; or puniſhed, if the offended perſon happen to be the moſt powerful?"*—And where "one half the inhabitants are employed in cheating and over-reaching the other?"†—And ſuch, it is affirmed, by reſpectable hiſtorians, are the character, laws and manners of the Chineſe, who are the wiſeſt and moſt civilized people in Aſia.

In INDIA, though we find much to admire in their code of laws, we find much alſo to deplore—many indications of barbariſm and wretchedneſs—Some of their laws are infamous, inhuman, cruel and glaringly unequal and unjuſt.‡ The condition of the lower claſſes of people is wretched and horrible in every reſpect—The *Pouliats*, or the fifth caſt, the refuſe of all the reſt, are employed in the meaneſt offices of ſociety, and live upon the fleſh of animals that die natural deaths—They are forbid to enter the temples

* Ibid. Vol. I. p. 186. † Encyc. Art. China.

‡ According to the Indian Code—"A huſband in diſtreſs, may deliver up his wife, if ſhe conſent; and a father may ſell his ſon, if he have ſeveral"—That is—A mother of a family may be reduced to the condition of a *proſtitute*,—and a ſon to that of a *ſlave*—"If a man kill an animal, ſuch as a horſe, a goat or a camel, one hand, and one foot ſhall be cut off from him"—Thus man is, by the laws, put upon a par with the brute creation.

The Indian Code ſays, "That a woman ſhould by no means be miſtreſs of her own actions; for if ſhe have her own free will, ſhe will always behave amiſs"—"A woman ſhall never go out of the houſe without the conſent of her huſband"—"It is *proper* for a woman, (except under certain circumſtances) after her huſband's death, to burn herſelf in the fire with his corpſe—Every woman who thus burns herſelf, ſhall remain in paradiſe with her huſband, an infinite number of years by deſtiny."

"If a man ſtrike a *Bramin*" or Prieſt "with his hand, or his foot, he ſhall have his hand or foot cut off."—"If a Sooder or man of the fourth caſt, be convicted of reading the *Beids* or ſacred books, he ſhall have boiling oil poured into his mouth; if he ſhould *liſten* to the reading of the Beids of the Shaſter, then oil, heated as before, ſhall be poured into his ears, and the orifice of his ears ſhall be ſtopped with melted wax"—"If a Sooder ſhall *ſit* upon the carpet of a Bramin—the magiſtrate, having thruſt a hot iron into his buttock, and branded him ſhall baniſh him the kingdom; or elſe he ſhall cut off his buttock—Whatever crime a Bramin ſhall commit, he ſhall not be put to death"—and his property is ſacred and *unalienable*. Raynal's Hiſt. of the Indies. Vol. I. p. 66—71.

temples—the publick markets, and even the ſtreets where the Bramins reſide—They can neither poſſeſs nor leaſe lands—and may be put to death with impunity, if they chance to touch any one that does not belong to their tribe.

Degraded and contemptible as theſe *Pouliats* are, it is ſaid " they have expelled from among themſelves the *Pouliches*, ſtill more degraded. Theſe laſt are forbidden the uſe of fire—they are not permitted to build huts, but are reduced to the neceſſity of living in a kind of neſt, which they make for themſelves in the foreſts, and upon the trees. When preſſed with hunger, they howl like wild beaſts, to excite the compaſſion of the paſſengers. The moſt charitable among the Indians, then depoſit ſome rice or other food at the foot of a tree, and retire with all poſſible haſte, to give the famiſhed wretch an opportunity of taking it without meeting his benefactor, who would think himſelf polluted by coming near him."*—This is the dark ſide of the picture of the preſent condition of this numerous people—but contraſted with the darkeſt ſhades in our own, the difference is great and ſtriking, and is calculated to excite the warmeſt effuſions of gratitude to Him " who hath made us to differ."

The time would fail me to give even a curſory view of the ſtate of the other nations of Aſia.—To relieve your patience, which I fear is already fatigued, I ſhall traverſe with rapidity, the other parts of the globe.

Of AFRICA, inhabited, according to common computation, by 150 millions of people, we know ſtill leſs than of Aſia, and but little more of SOUTH AMERICA; and leaſt of all of the wild inhabitants of thoſe *extenſive regions* which lie Weſt and North of the United States and Canada. From the little we do know of them, however, it will

* Raynal—Vol. I. p. 80—83.

will not be preſuming too much to give it as our opinion, that the moſt enlightened, the beſt governed, and the happieſt among the numerous nations in theſe quarters of the globe, fall far below theſe United States—I will not ſay in their morals—for in this point, a compariſon with ſome other nations, I fear, would be againſt us—but in their conſtitutions of government—in their laws—in ſcience—in their knowledge of uſeful arts—in a word, in their religious, civil and ſocial privileges.

After taking this general review of the nations of the earth, (in doing which I have taken up more time than I intended, though far leſs than it required, to do it full juſtice)—we are prepared to reviſit our own country—and to ſurvey the bleſſings which diſtinguiſh it from the reſt of the world.—Theſe have been ſo often enumerated on occaſions like the preſent, that little that is new, will be expected, and brevity, of courſe, will be acceptable.

1. Our lot is diſtinguiſhed from that of many other nations, by the bleſſings of PEACE. We have ſeen how great a portion of the world is afflicted with the awful calamities of War. In conſequence of our intimate connexion with ſome of the belligerent powers, by means of the iniquitous commercial depredations of one, and a faſcinating and dangerous influence of another, the peace of our neutral nation has been imminently endangered. By means of the *latter*, the poiſonous ſeeds of a party, *diſorganizing* ſpirit were ſown thick among us—and being nouriſhed by the *former*, ſprung up and increaſed, for a ſhort time, with alarming rapidity; and threatened us with all the calamities, firſt of a foreign, then of an inteſtine war.—The fruits of theſe ſeeds have been more or leſs viſible in all parts of our country, but none have been ſo matured and conſpicuous as the Weſtern inſurrection.

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—The wiſe, deciſive and ſeaſonable meaſures adopted by the Supreme Executive, and the other officers of government, and advocated and ſupported by the great body of enlightened citizens, to check and counteract this dangerous foreign influence in all its ſhapes—have, under the ſmiles of Providence, procured our exemption hitherto from foreign war—and by means of a late happily concluded foreign negociation,*—and the increaſing harmony and union between this country and the French nation, in conſequence of the recent happy change in the meaſures of their government—we have the moſt pleaſing "proſpect of a continuance of this exemption."

A bleſſing no leſs diſtinguiſhing than our exemption from *foreign* war, is the preſervation of our *internal* tranquillity, when "wantonly threatened" by a daring inſurrection. The alacrity with which our fellow-citizens, when called, flew to the ſtandard of their Chief, on the trying emergency, when the important queſtion was to be decided, Whether we ſhould be governed by a mob, or by our legal repreſentatives?—the eaſe and celerity with which a moſt reſpectable and formidable army was collected—the zeal and patriotiſm which animated them—the complete ſucceſs with which their exertions were crowned—and the general applauſe they received from their grateful fellow-citizens—all theſe circumſtances ſerve to confirm our internal tranquillity, as they operate to diſcourage ambitious and unprincipled demagogues from making the like attempts to interrupt our peace in future—and to increaſe the confidence of the people in the ſtability, energy and promptneſs of our Federal Government.

When we turn our eyes to the little Republick of Geneva, and behold her deep diſtreſs—and trace the cauſes which

* With GREAT-BRITAIN.

which led to it—we cannot but feel the moſt undiſſembled gratitude to God, our kind Preſerver, in that we have ſo happily eſcaped the very ſame ſnares, which have involved her in ruin.

In ſpeaking of our *domeſtic peace*, we ought not to paſs unnoticed, the ſtate of our frontiers. For ſeveral years paſt we have been engaged in an unhappy conteſt with the Indian nations. Since we have been able ſatisfactorily to trace the origin of this expenſive war—and know that the unfortunate tribes who have been engaged in it, have been deceived, urged on, and aſſiſted by a foreign nation, whoſe meaſures have been peculiarly hoſtile to our proſperity and peace; and no leſs ſo, we believe, to the happineſs and true intereſts of the Indians themſelves—the neceſſity and juſtice of the vigorous meaſures of our government in proſecuting it, can hardly be doubted by any one. The ſignal ſucceſs, therefore, of our frontier army* the laſt year, muſt be conſidered a favour of Divine Providence. In conſequence of this ſucceſs, and the pacifick treaties and meaſures entered into and purſuing by *our* government, and the change of plans in the *Britiſh* government, the aſpect of affairs in our weſtern borders, though ſtill unſettled, wear a more favourable and pacifick aſpect.

2. Our lot as a nation is diſtinguiſhed from that of the other nations of the world, by "the poſſeſſion of conſtitutions of government which unite—and by their union eſtabliſh liberty with order." The principles of our Federal and State conſtitutions are the ſame; and have for their object the protection and ſafety of the lives, the liberties and fortunes of the citizens.—The ſtate governments are protected againſt an undue interference of the Federal Government—each is left to make and to execute its own local laws—while the Federal Government corrects

* Under General WAYNE.

rects and harmonizes the jarring intereſts of the ſtate governments, and cements their union. Our conſtitutions of government indeed are the fruit of the experience of all former ages, and the trial of them has proved their ſingular excellency. In no nation on earth do the citizens enjoy protection and ſafety in their rights, at the expenſe of ſo ſmall a portion of their natural liberty—Each individual is ſecured in the poſſeſſion of his own rights, but in no inſtance ſuffered to encroach upon the rights of others.

3. The wiſe and ſalutary laws, which flow from, and correſpond with, our free conſtitutions of government—the freedom and the frequency of our elections—the patronage and encouragement given to publick and ſchool education, and to all uſeful mechanick arts and improvements—the perfect enjoyment of religious as well as civil liberty—the means afforded, and the meaſures contemplated to extinguiſh our national debt*—and in general "the unexampled proſperity of all claſſes of our citizens;"—theſe are ſignal bleſſings, which, if they do not diſtinguiſh our lot from *every* other nation, they do from *moſt* of them—and certainly "mark our ſituation with peculiar indications of the divine beneficence towards us."

"When," therefore, "we review the calamities which afflict ſo many other nations"—when we ſurvey and conſider the ſtate of the whole World, ſo far as our knowlegde extends—does not "the preſent condition of the United States" *indeed* afford much matter of conſolation and ſatisfaction?"—"In ſuch a ſtate of things, is it not, in an eſpecial manner, our duty as a people, with devout reverence and affectionate gratitude, to acknowledge our

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* See the report of the Secretary of the Treaſury, of Jan. 1795, containing "a plan for the further ſupport of Publick Credit"—And the ſpeech of Mr. Smith (S. C.) "on the ſubject of the Reduction of the Publick Debt"—December 1794—Publiſhed in a pamphlet.

many and great obligations to Almighty God?" "What nation is there ſo great, that hath ſtatutes and judgments ſo righteous as all this law which I ſet before you this day?"—"How great is the ſum" of our mercies?—"What ſhall we render to the Lord for all his benefits?"

If our ſituation, my brethren, be ſuch as we have repreſented—if the Governour of the Univerſe has thus diſtinguiſhed us with his favours—then, ſurely, we ought to be the beſt people in the world. "To whom much is given, of them much is required." Our gratitude ſhould bear a proportion to our bleſſings—Our love to God, and our obedience to his perfect laws, it will be reaſonably expected, ſhould as much ſurpaſs the love and obedience of others, in point of fervour, conſtancy, and purity, as our advantages and mercies exceed theirs—And thus to eſtimate and improve our mercies is the only way to ſecure their continuance.—Our national and individual ſins, under our advantages, will be attended with peculiar aggravations—Let this conſideration operate as a powerful diſſuaſive from ſins of every kind—and excite us to an upright conduct, as men, as citizens, and as Chriſtians.

In our preſent ſituation, loaded and diſtinguiſhed as we are, by various bleſſings—we have need to beware that our hearts be not lifted up with pride and ſelf-conceit, as though we were the peculiar favourites of heaven, and the moſt deſerving of all the nations of the earth. From ſuch arrogance in our proſperity, may the Lord preſerve us!—It is the nature of proſperity to fill the mind with vain glory, ſelf-importance, and ſelf-complacency—to make men feel independent of their fellow-men, and even of their God.—To keep our minds properly balanced and humble, when things go well with us as a nation, or as individuals,

individuals, we ſhould conſtantly bear in mind, that it is not *we ourſelves*, but the LORD OUR GOD, that maketh us rich, and cauſeth us to be proſperous and happy.—Beſides, proſperity in this world does not always mark the beſt nations or the beſt men. Moſes declares to the Iſraelites, that it was not for their righteouſneſs, or the uprightneſs of their heart, that Canaan was given to them, but becauſe of the wickedneſs of the nations who inhabited it, and to fulfil a promiſe to their fathers—"Underſtand therefore, ſaid he, that the Lord thy God giveth thee not this good land to poſſeſs it for thy righteouſneſs, for thou art a ſtiff-necked people."*—Let the conſideration that this ſame language, can with truth be addreſſed to us, ſerve to humble us in the midſt of our joy—and to qualify our rejoicing with a due proportion of trembling for our unworthineſs.

Bleſt with a free and efficient government, a flouriſhing commerce, good credit, a fine and but partially ſettled country, and at peace with all the world—the United States offer, if not the *only*, probably the *beſt* aſylum for the oppreſſed and perſecuted by civil and eccleſiaſtical tyranny—Hither thouſands of uſeful artizans and others, have already taken refuge from the calamities which afflicted their own country—By a ſtrict adherence to the government, laws, and religious inſtitutions of our country—may we evince to the world around us, their ſuperior excellency, and cauſe them to ſay of us—"Surely this great nation is a wiſe and underſtanding people." Thus may we "render this country more and more a ſafe and propitious aſylum for the unfortunate of other countries."

Let us take heed, and keep our ſouls diligently, leſt we forget the great things which God hath done for us, and

* Deut. ix. 5, 6.

and the impreſſion of our obligations to him for them, be effaced from our hearts. Let us cheriſh their memory by teaching them to our children—that they may know and learn to eſtimate the immenſe value of the bleſſings which are, we hope, to be their future inheritance.

If the great body of the citizens throughout theſe American States, are well informed in reſpect to their rights and liberties, it will be difficult, if not impoſſible for ambitious, deſigning men, to wreſt them from them. If ever Americans are enſlaved, the ſad revolution will be preceded by a prevalence of ignorance among the middling and poorer claſſes of men. As, then, we value the bleſſings of a free and equal government for ourſelves, and our poſterity—let us uſe our influence ſeparately, and jointly, "to extend true and uſeful knowledge," among every claſs of people—and "to diffuſe and eſtabliſh," in our own families reſpectively, and among the youth in general, "habits of ſobriety, order, morality and piety." —We cannot leave a better legacy to our country than a family of well educated children.

As God hath made of one blood all nations to dwell on the face of the earth—they are all brethren of the ſame great family. It is the part of a good man to poſſeſs the feelings of a *brother* towards the whole human race—and to be concerned for their happineſs.—It becomes us, therefore, not to confine our benevolent regards to the narrow circle of our particular friends, to our town, our ſtate, or even to our country; but to feel a glow of affectionate good will for all men of every nation, religion and character, on earth; and to unite in one ſincere and fervent petition to the Great Ruler of Nations, "THAT HE WOULD IMPART ALL THE BLESSINGS WE POSSESS, OR ASK FOR OURSELVES, TO THE WHOLE FAMILY OF MANKIND."

To

To conclude—What people, in any age or country, ever had greater reaſons for gratitude and joy, either from the real enjoyment, or the proſpect, of great and good things, than the inhabitants of the United American States, at the preſent moment?—We have a healthful, extenſive, and fruitful country, equal to the ſupport of the largeſt Empire that ever exiſted on earth—We have Conſtitutions of Government confeſſedly as good, as any ever formed by man, and as well adminiſtered—and with as fair proſpects of permanency—The civil bleſſings which flow from good government, we feel in all their variety, and to a degree probably beyond any other nation—We have a Religion, and a free enjoyment of it—againſt which the gates of hell ſhall never prevail—whoſe inſtitutions and precepts are wiſely calculated to promote peace on earth and good-will among men—which unfolds to us the wonderful plan of Redemption by Jeſus Chriſt, and brings life and immortality to light——With ſuch a COUNTRY—ſuch a GOVERNMENT—and ſuch a RELIGION—if we are but wiſe to improve the advantages they furniſh, and God vouchſafes to us his bleſſing—what that is great and ennobling to human nature, may we not expect?—"The wide, the unbounded proſpect lies before us"—"Here let" us "hold"—and while the impreſſion is warm on our hearts, let us with one conſent, offer up a cloud of grateful incenſe, through Chriſt, to the Father of Mercies—unbounded in his love, and infinite in goodneſs—to whom be glory forever,

A M E N.

B.P.L. Bindery,
SEP 8 1899